We met on a sunny day near the Porte Saint-Denis, on my way into Paris.
At the time I was fresh from the country, with only the clothes on my back.
I knew nothing about anything.
Moyoco Anno
Memoirs of Amorous Gentlemen
episode 3

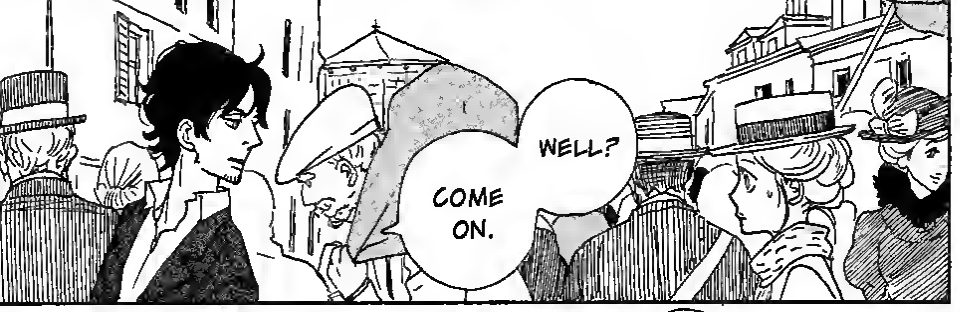
Moyoco Anno

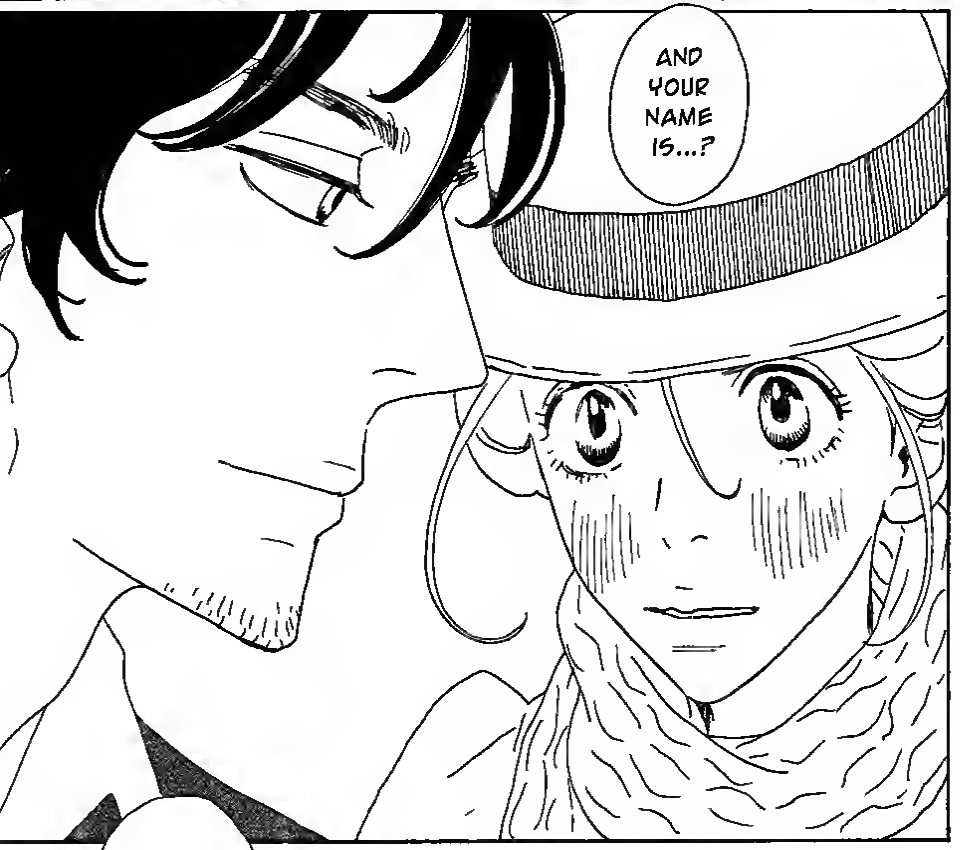
Memoirs of Amorous Gentlemen

VINS
So many people and stalls and carriages and cars.
Flowers and lace and candied fruit.
THIS WAY FOR A TASTE SENSATION!
BUY SOME OF THIS, YOUNG LADY!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN A ROSE THAT COLOR.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!
THIS IS NOTHING LIKE THE MARKET BACK HOME.
Everything I saw was new to me.
SUCH PRETTY SWEETS!
OH!
YOU, THERE!
THAT'LL BE 15 SOU! PAY UP!
NO, YOU DID!
BUT I DIDN'T TOUCH IT!
YOU TOUCH IT, YOU BUY IT!
EH?

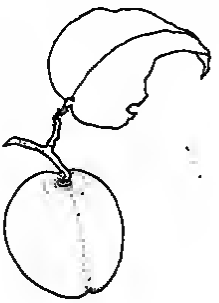
MA'AM.
YOU JUST SOLD ONE FOR HALF THAT PRICE.
SHHHH!
THE PRICE JUST WENT UP!
Don't you mock your elders!
Stop...
HOW ABOUT IT?
EH?
...
EVEN IF I'M BUYING?
あはは
AH HA HA!
FINE!
YOU KNOW I CAN'T RESIST YOU!
IT'S A ROTTEN TRICK TO PULL!





...I'M COLETTE.

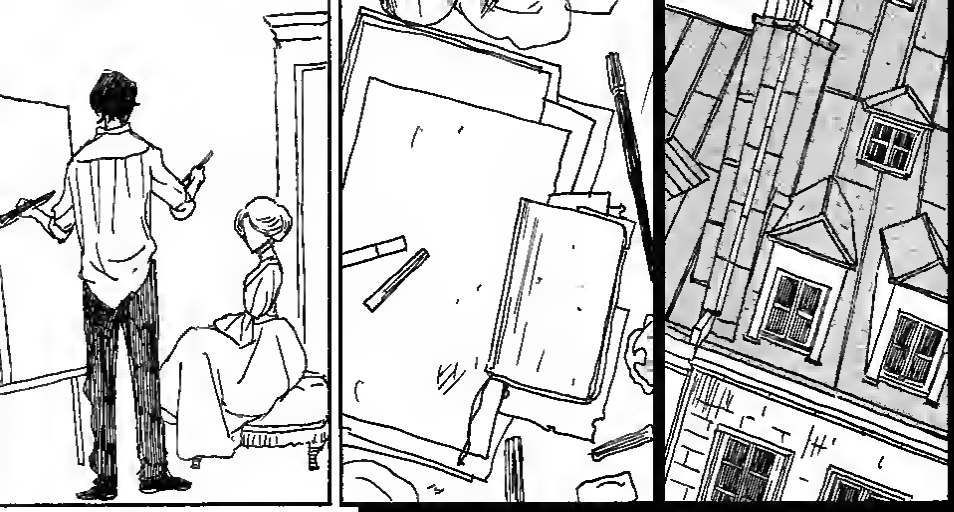
Like a ripe apricot falls from a tree.



...into his hands so easily.

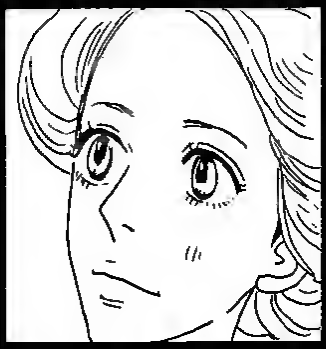
I fell...

LEON, LEON...
IT HURTS.



I was a country girl who had come to the city looking for work.

Leon was a poor artist who had come to Paris to be a painter.



This was a common story...

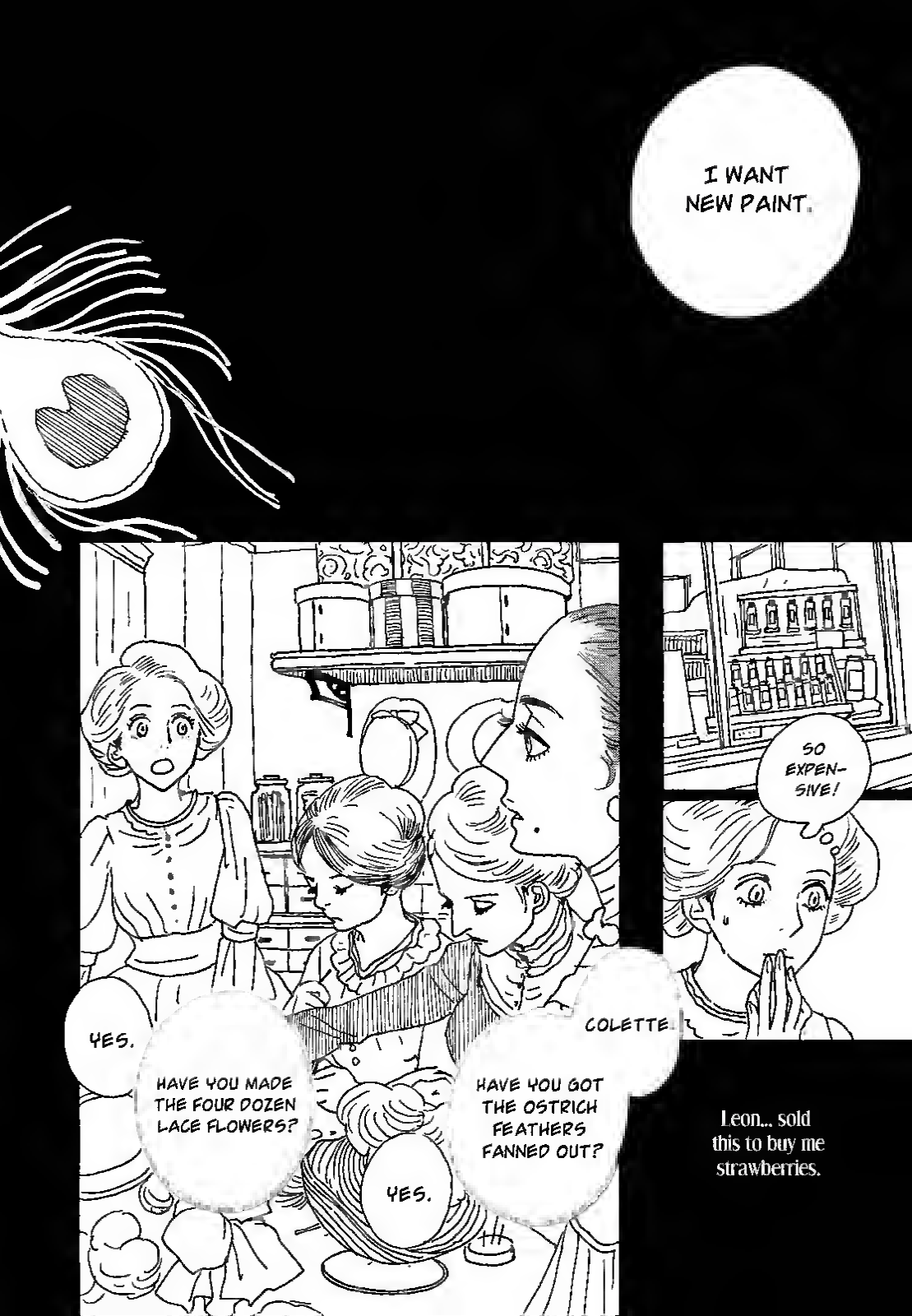
...but I thought it beautiful and cosmopolitan.

At last I found a job.
I wanted to support him.
AND SELLING THE RED PAINT LET ME BUY THESE STRAWBERRIES!
DON'T WORRY, I NEVER USE THAT COLOR.
OSTRICH AND PEACOCK PLUMES ON LADIES' HATS!
I'LL BE PUTTING FEATHERS ON HATS.

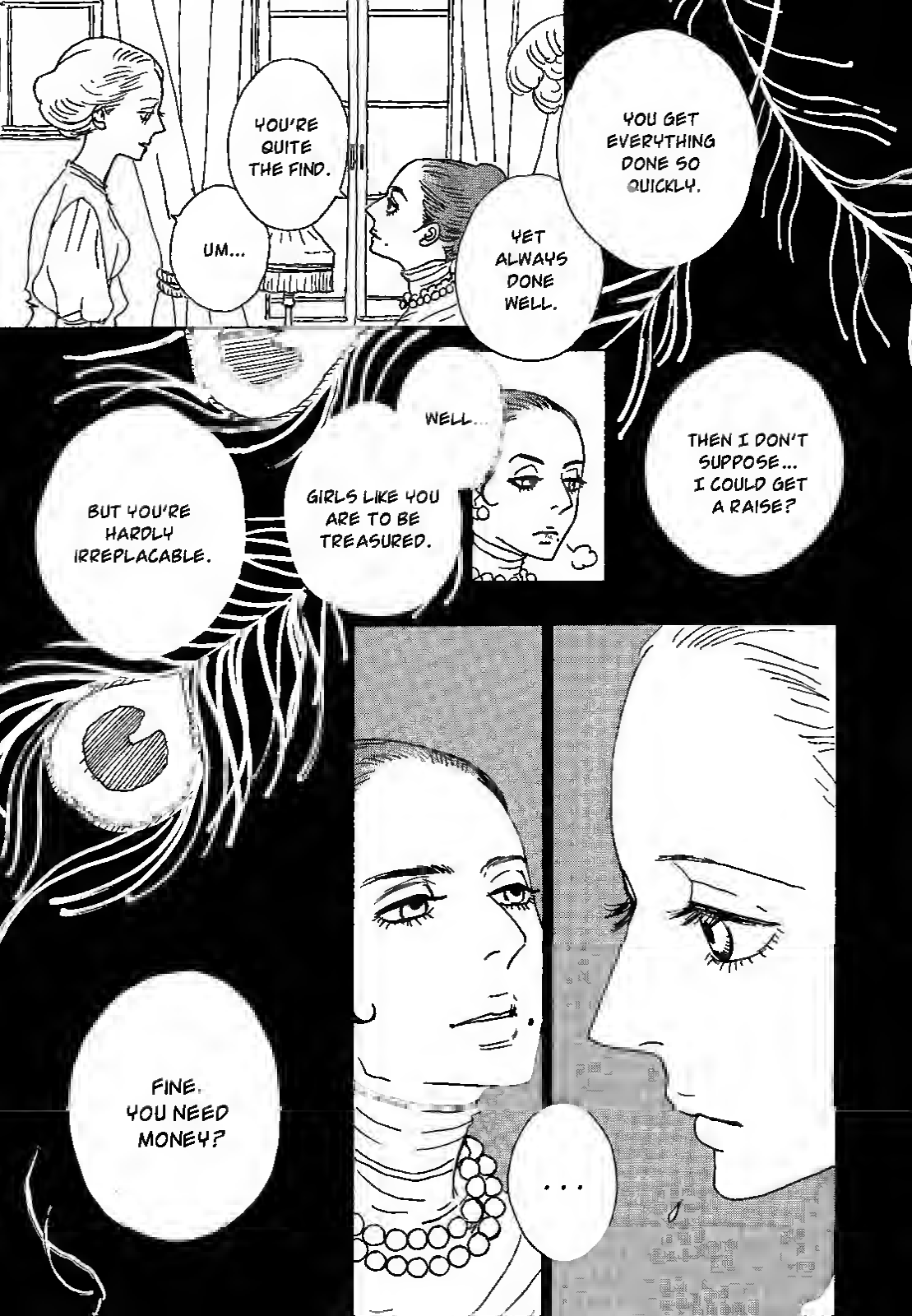
Whenever he was like that, that is what I told myself.
He was always staring into space, looking at nothing in particular.
"He's listening to the rain."
"He went out to look at the moonlight."
When he didn't come home...

I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
STOP IT, LEON.
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
STOP!
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I GET IT, ALREADY!
IF I SAY IT A HUNDRED TIMES, WILL YOU FEEL LOVED?
SO WHAT IF I WAS WITH ANOTHER WOMAN? HOW DOES THAT MAKE ME NOT LOVE YOU?!

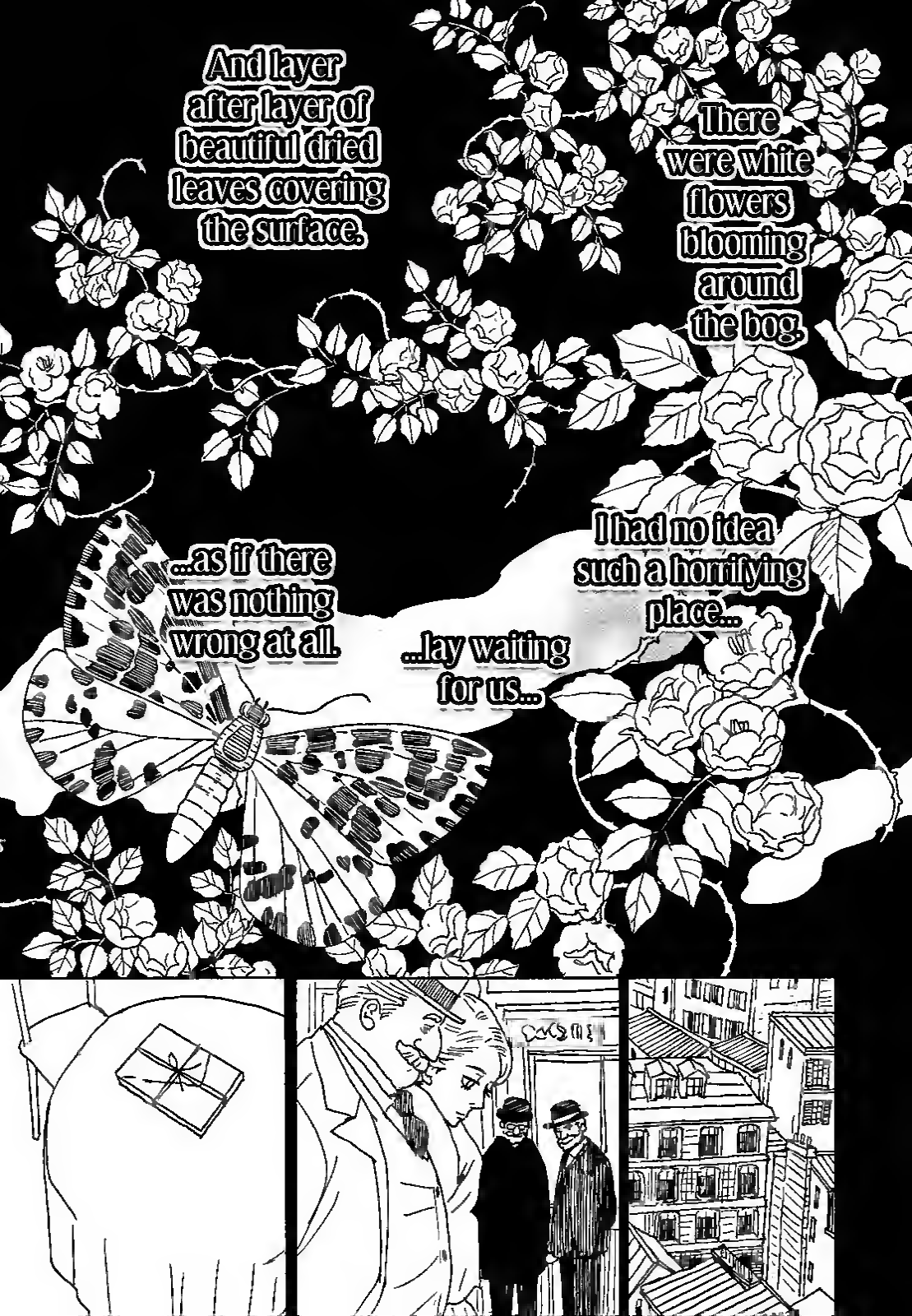
THAT WOMAN HAS MONEY.
ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?
I...



Leon... sold this to buy me strawberries.


YOU'RE QUITE THE FIND.
UM...
YOU GET EVERYTHING DONE SO QUICKLY.
YET ALWAYS DONE WELL.
WELL...
GIRLS LIKE YOU ARE TO BE TREASURED.
BUT YOU'RE HARDLY IRREPLACABLE.
THEN I DON'T SUPPOSE... I COULD GET A RAISE?
FINE. YOU NEED MONEY?
...

"It's like a bottomless bog."
BUT...
THEY'RE ALL PROPER GENTLEMEN.
OUR CLIENTS ARE WELL-BRED, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO BE FRIGHTENED OF.
But once you've stepped in...
If you're lucky, some traveler may save you.
If you try, you can escape it.
You'll always have mud on you.
I'M NOT RE-COMMENDING IT.
I had no idea.


And layer after layer of beautiful dried leaves covering the surface.
There were white flowers blooming around the bog.
I had no idea such a horrifying place...
...as if there was nothing wrong at all.
...lay waiting for us...

CLCK
TAK
TAK
TAK
WHAT'S THIS?
I GOT A RAISE.
...

The bog was the fact that "men become kind if you give them money." Or so I would come to realize.
The "bog" was not my "secret job."
But only after I could no longer pry my feet loose.
I KNOW IT!
DON'T YOU DARE WEAR THE SHIRT I GAVE YOU!
YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THAT WOMAN AGAIN?
YOU ARE!

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, COLETTE.
WE NEED MONEY...
...TO SUSTAIN OUR LIFE-STYLE.
No matter how much there was, it was never enough.

Beautiful curtains, silk gowns...
Wood to heat the room, an elegant couch.
The paint he'd never even opened.
The blank white canvases.

SHE WENT THAT WAY!
FWEEET
OUCH! THAT HURTS! LET GO!
AUGH
YOU'RE COMING WITH US!
AUGH
WHORES!

I'VE SEEN YOUR FACE BEFORE.
YOU'VE BEEN PICKING UP CLIENTS THERE FOR A WHILE.
WHY DON'T YOU REGISTER WITH A LICENSED BROTHEL?
YOU CAN EARN A LIVING PROPERLY, NO SKULKING ABOUT.

LEON...
LEON, ARE YOU CRYING?
...
COLETTE, WHEN I THINK HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME, I CAN'T STOP THE TEARS.
LEON...
YOU DID IT ALL FOR ME. YOU SOLD YOURSELF FOR ME.

...between Leon hitting me, and my back hitting the ground.

...in the instant...

...is what flashed through my mind...